146 Eye Banks are there in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Eye Bank Association of India (EBI) is of the view that the existing Corneal Grafting Act passed by the State Legislatures and by the Parliament are not adequate to provide more donor eyes and these Acts should be amended or fresh Acts be passed to overcome the deficiency of these Acts. They have forwarded a model Corneal Grafting Act to be forwarded to the State Governments so as to enable them to enact more effective legislation. It envisages procurement of more donor eyes from postmortam cases and unclaimed bodies from hospitals which can be a very large source of donor eyes.

A decision can only be taken in this regard after thorough examination of the proposal in consultation with the Ministry of Law.

Purchase done by N.I.H.

3542. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that huge purchases by the National Institute of Homoeopathy have been made without inviting tender and construction work worth a few lakhs of rupees was assigned to an individual without inviting tender as required under Government Financial Rules ;

(b) whether any audit report has drawn attention to this aspect ;

(c) if not, whether the audit officer was obliged through the appointment of a superannuated person in Accounts Department on normal pay at the age of 61 ; and

(d) whether Government would institute special audit in order to as certain whether there have been any financial irregularities in the Istitute ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

Medical colleges iu Private Sector

3543. DR. NARREDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent proposals to Government for establishing new medical colleges in Private Sector ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Facility of rabbies

3544. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the category of infaction and fatality of rabbies is very high and can be comparable with that of AIDS ;

(b) whether Government has been pursuing any measure to raise the level of consciousness of the people about the threat to their lives from their pet and other animals ; if so, the details thereof ;